



ALL IN

INCLUSIVE LEARNING. FULL ACCESS. BETTER OUTCOMES.

Vision

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in **student-focused “inclusive” education.**

Mission

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) provides leadership, support, and service to schools, districts, and communities so every student graduates prepared for college, career, and community engagement.



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INCLUSIVE PRACTICES PLC PROJECT

- Create a Professional Learning Communities at Work culture within the school in order to promote continuous improvement
- Increase levels of student achievement through teacher collaboration, a relentless focus on learning, and a results orientation for all students with an intentional focus on outcomes for students with disabilities
- Increase the number of students with disabilities being educated in general education content classrooms
- Increase access to core instruction (least restrictive environment) for all students
- Increase academic performance as measured by district and state assessments
- Increase knowledge of Innovative Service Delivery Models, including RTI, UDL and High-Leverage Practices to promote inclusion



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INCLUSIVE PRACTICES PLC PROJECT

2021-2022 Project Schools

Caldwell Elementary, Benton School District
Carroll Smith Elementary, Osceola School District
East Hills Middle, Greenwood School District
Lakeside Jr. High, Lakeside School District
McNair Middle, Fayetteville School District
Rivercrest Elementary, Rivercrest School District
Waldron Elementary, Waldron School District

2020-2021 Pilot

Angie Grant Elementary, Benton School District
Grace Hill Elementary, Rogers School District
Prescott Elementary, Prescott School District
Raymond Orr Elementary, Fort Smith School District



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SECTION 1: PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

- Develop and expand the Professional Learning Communities at Work process within select schools
- Create school sites that serve as working laboratories for the PLC at Work process, conducting action research and sharing best inclusive practices with other schools throughout Arkansas
- Promote an intentional focus on inclusive practices to ensure that students who are IEP-eligible, as well as other groups of struggling learners, have meaningful access to core instruction

OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

- Selected schools, in partnership with an educational service cooperative (ESC), will be matched with a certified PLC at Work Associate from Solution Tree
- Schools will receive 12 days of onsite support as they deepen and sustain the PLC process with a focus on inclusive practices and culture
- Each school will create action plans that focus on increasing student achievement through aligned curriculum, formative assessment practices, and proven instructional strategies

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Strengthen the current Professional Learning Communities at Work culture by ensuring that all sub-groups of students are addressed
- Increase the number of students with disabilities being taught to grade level expectations and who are making progress towards proficiency on grade level standards
- Increase access to grade level standards and rigorous curriculum
- Increase knowledge and implementation of innovative service delivery models

INTENDED OUTCOMES FOLLOWING FULL IMPLEMENTATION

- Increased levels of student achievement through teacher collaboration, a relentless focus on learning, and a results orientation for all students with an intentional focus on outcomes for students with disabilities
- Increased academic performance as measured by district and state assessments
- Increased collaboration between the district and the corresponding regional educational cooperative for sustainability of the project

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

- Professional learning provided through a hybrid model of onsite training, observation and coaching by trained and certified associates
- Print and video resources tailored to the needs of the school in support of the learning
- Attendance at Solution Tree registration events after discussion with school PLC associate (district is responsible for travel expense)

WHAT CAN SCHOOLS EXPECT?

- PLC at Work Associates will be onsite twelve days at each of the Project Schools. These days will be a combination of onsite training, observation, coaching and other job-embedded staff development
 - There will be times when accommodations will need to be made for teachers who are out of the classroom for training
- Additional web conferences and virtual training will occur with the building principal and other building leaders, as well as the school's leadership team, collaborative teams, and individual teachers
 - Education Service Cooperative literacy and math specialists shall be included in the training
- The schools will fully implement the three big ideas of a PLC at Work with fidelity, with the guidance of a trained and certified PLC at Work Associate, and an intentional focus on inclusive practices and culture

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

- Any K-12 Public School and Open Enrollment Charter School within Arkansas
- Priority will be given to schools with an Additional Targeted Support (ATS) designation due to performance of students with disabilities as identified under the [Arkansas ESSA Plan](#)
- Efforts will be made to ensure equitable geographic distribution across the state
- All schools intending to apply **MUST** submit a Letter of Intent (LOI)
- LOI's will be emailed to all superintendents, LEA supervisors and building principals at the completion of today's webinar
- Applications will only be sent to those schools that have submitted the LOI
- **All LOIs must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 18, 2022**
- Schools participating in PLC Project Cohorts four, five, or six are ineligible to participate due to the ongoing intensive support provided by the state

SELECTION PROCESS

- The selection process involves the following:
 1. Applications Received by DESE
 2. Selection Committee Review
 3. Finalist Interviews
 4. Schools Selected and Announced

SECTION 3: CONTENTS OF THE APPLICATION

- Cover Page
- Letter from Education Service Cooperative
- Introduction
- School Demographic Data
 - Special Education Demographic Data
 - Student/Teacher Ratios
 - Teacher numbers
 - Average tenure of staff
- Applicant Needs
- School Structures
- Initiative Implementation
- Project Commitment
- Stakeholder Involvement and Support
- Sustainability

SECTION 4: COMMITMENTS OF THE INCLUSIVE PRACTICES PLC PROJECT

- Engage in ongoing, targeted professional development to deepen PLC at Work practices
- Support teams, including special education professionals, and the structures necessary for implementing a PLC
- Increase inclusive practices within the school
- Practice gradual release of responsibility as the school team deepens their PLC at Work structures and creates plans to sustain the PLC at Work process after the Project has ended
- Develop plans for continued teacher training and coaching after the Project has ended
- Establish and practice a belief system that all students are capable of learning at high levels and teachers accept responsibility for making this outcome a reality
- Serve as a learning lab for other schools to visit in order to build capacity throughout Arkansas

PROCESS FOR SELECTING SCHOOLS

- Schools will be selected through a rigorous application and evaluation process, determined by a committee of educational professionals knowledgeable of the Professional Learning Communities at Work process
- The project will be funded through a grant to the district's cooperative partner
- Rubrics, including evaluation criteria, will be sent with the application
- Selected schools will serve as learning sites for other schools
- Efforts will be made to ensure equitable geographic access and distribution across the state
- Once finalists are chosen, interviews will be conducted
- Only applications that have addressed sections 3 and 4 in their entirety will be reviewed

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

- Applications must be received no later than 5 pm CST on April 15, 2022
Documents should be double spaced with a minimum of 12-point font
- Applicants must be clear and concise with responses on each component
- Applications may be mailed or sent electronically
 - If sent electronically, documents should be submitted as a Microsoft Word or Adobe.pdf file
 - The document should be emailed to:
michelle.waldo@ade.arkansas.gov
 - If mailed, include one hard copy. Hard copy applications should be addressed and sent to:

Michelle Waldo, Policy Development Coordinator
Arkansas Department of Education
1401 W. Capitol Ave, Suite 450
Little Rock, AR 72201

PROJECTED TIMELINE

Letters of Intent Due to DESE	March 18, 2022
Application Emailed to Point of Contact	April 1, 2022
Applications Due	April 15, 2022
Evaluation Period	April 18 - April 22, 2022
Finalist Interviews	April 25 - May 6, 2022
Notification of Award	May 13, 2022
Tentative Project Start	July 2022

WEBSITE INFORMATION

- Today's Zoom meeting has been recorded and will be posted on the Inclusive Practices Project website.

<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/special-projects/inclusive-practices-project>

PROJECT CONTACTS

Matt Sewell, Director of Special Programs
Arkansas Department of Education
1401 W. Capitol Ave, Suite 450
Little Rock, AR 72201
matt.sewell@ade.arkansas.gov
Office: 501-682-4221

Missy Walley, Director of Special Projects
Arkansas Department of Education
Four Capitol Mall, Room 103-B
Little Rock, AR 72201
missy.walley@ade.arkansas.gov
Office: 501-682-4988



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